(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Increase in the monthly quota of rice to Kerala

*55. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala have requested for an increase in the monthly quota of rice;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether any decision has been taken thereon; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of Kerala have requested for increasing the quota of rice from 1.00 lakh tonnes to 1.60 lakh tonnes per month.

(c) and (d) It has not been found possible to accede to the request of the State Government.

बैलाडिला, मध्य प्रदेश में लौह अयस्क का अपव्यय

*56. **श्री अजीत जोगी :** क्या **इस्पात और खान** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि मध्य प्रदेश के बस्तर जिले के बैलाडिला में विपुल मात्रा में फाइन लौह अयस्क निरुपयोग श्रेणी में व्यर्थ पड़ा है और नष्ट हो रही है;

(ख) क्या सरकार की इसका सदुपयोग करने की कोई योजना है; और

(ग) क्या बैलाडिला के पास कोक और लौह अयस्क की भट्टी बनाने का संयंत्र स्थापित करने की कोई योजना सरकार के विचाराधीन है ?

इस्पात और खान मंत्री (श्री माखन लाल फोतेदार) : (क) लौह अयस्क के खनन के दौरान डलों के अतिरिक्त भारी मात्रा में चूरा भी निकलता है । चूंकि पूर्ववर्ती वर्षों में केवल अयस्क के डलों का इस्तेमाल होता था, अतः चूरा, जो इस्तेमाल-योग्य नहीं होता था, ढेर में डाल दिया जाता था । अप्रयुक्त चूरे के ये स्टाक अवश्य विद्यमान हैं ।

(ख) जी, हां ।

(ग) जी, नहीं ।

Steel Plants at Sevagram

*57. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to establish three steel plants at SEVAGRAM (Wardha Distt.) in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) by when the proposed projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR): (a) and (b) Government does not contemplate establishing any steel plant at Sevagram. However, letters of Intent were issued in 1985 for setting up three steel projects in Wardha District of Maharashtra. A letter of intent was issued in July, 1985 to Messrs. Inland Steels Limited for rolling of 1,00,000 tonnes per annum of cold rolled carbon steel sheets. The second letter of intent was issued in October, 1985 to M/s.

Integrated Steels Ltd., for a composite unit for steel making and manufacture of 1,20,000 tonnes per annum of cold rolled carbon steel strips. The third letter of intent issued to Shri V. C. Saraf for manufacturing of 50,000 tonnes per annum of Mild Steel Ingots/Slabs was cancelled in 1987.

(c) Conversion of the letters of intent into licences would depend upon the satisfactory compliance with all the stipulations laid down by the Government.

Increase in the prices of essential commodities

*58. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a considerable increase in the prices of essential commodities during the last one year;

(b) if so, how it compare with the last one year; and

(c) whether Government propose to take any step to bring down the prices of essential commodities; and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) to (c) The prices of essential commodities have shown a mixed trend during the past one year ending 4-2-1989. Whereas there has been increase in the prices of pulses (except arhar), wheat, atta, jowar, milk and chillies, prices of certain other essential commodities like edible oils, bajra and onions have declined during the past one year. Some other commodities like soft coke, kerosene, and matches remained steady during this period.

2. Compared to the prices prevailing in the corresponding one year period in 1988 (i.e. between 7-2-87 and 6-2-1988 during this year prices of some commodities such as arhar, bajra, groundnut oil, mustard oil, etc., have been lower. The rate of increase in price of rice has also been lower during this year. However, certain other commodities such as wheat, jowar, gram, masoor, urad, milk, etc., have exhibited a higher rate of increase during the last one year in comparison to the corresponding period of the last year.

3. Wholesale Price index of all commodities during the past one year as on 4-2-1989 has increased by only 5.4 per cent in comparison to increase of 10.3 per cent in the last corresponding year ending 6-2-1988.

4. Government has taken several measures to improve the availability of the essential commodities and contain their prices. The main thrust of the Government's policy is to increase production of various essential commodities particularly those which are in short supply. Measures such as import of certain commodities for example, rice, wheat, edible oils, pulses, petroleum products are taken to augment domestic supply. The exports of certain essential commodities such as pulses, edible oils, meat are also regulated. Public Distribution has been expanded and improved. Prices and availability of essential commodities are closely monitored by the Central as well as State Governments. Enforcement measures against hoarders, blackmarketeers and anti-social elements are taken by the State Governments under the provisions of Essential Commidities Act and similar other legislations.

Quarantine and Fumigation facilities for Imported Seeds

*59. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI:

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country have sufficient quarantine and fumigation facil-